

inner web, which the corresponding bars in *U. albigularis* do not reach.

In *U. jardinei* the flank-feathers, axillaries, and under wing-coverts, instead of being a pure white, as in *U. albigularis*, are tinted, though but very faintly, with grey, and many of these feathers also exhibit darker shaft-marks of a hair-like fineness.

The most striking peculiarity of plumage in *U. jardinei* is, however, to be found in the tail, which, in addition to a slight whitish tip, is crossed on the upper surface by four, and on the under by five, transverse whitish bands, which are entirely wanting in *U. albigularis*; these bands, on the upper surface of the tail, are about 0·4 of an inch in depth, the uppermost band being a decided, though not a pure, white, the lowest whitish brown, and the two that are intermediate in position being also intermediate in hue; all the bands are, however, more conspicuously white on the outer than on the central rectrices, and more so on the under than on the upper surface of the tail. I may add that the fifth white bar on the underside of the tail is placed higher up than the four bands which are common to both surfaces.

It is much to be regretted that the habitat of *Urospizias jardinei* must, for the present, remain unknown; but, if I am correct in referring this species to the subgenus *Urospizias*, its home will probably be found somewhere in the great Australasian Oceanic Region, which is the home of its congeners; and it is hoped that the figure which accompanies this article may assist in the identification of future specimens, should any such come to light.

VIII.—On the *Breeding-plumage* of *Podiceps occidentalis*,
Lawrence. By H. B. TRISTRAM, D.D., F.R.S.

AT the sale of Sir W. Jardine's collection I became the possessor of a specimen of *Podiceps occidentalis*, Lawrence, labelled in Sir William's handwriting "*Podiceps leucopterus*, King, ♀, Vancouver's Island, coll. Mr. Brown." The bird

was in full nuptial dress. I saw at once that it differed from *Podiceps major* (Bodd.), Pl. Enl. 404, admirably figured by Jardine and Selby (Ill. Orn. pl. 107) under the name of *P. leucopterus*, King. Of this bird I have a specimen in breeding-plumage obtained by Mr. Bridges in Chili. It is impossible on comparing the two birds to confuse them, and I can only suppose that Sir W. Jardine labelled his specimen without comparison; and indeed his own collection does not appear to have contained a South-American specimen of *P. major*.

The breeding-plumage of *P. occidentalis* appears to be quite unknown; at least I can find no description of it in the latest North-American works on the subject*. They do but repeat the remark of Prof. Baird:—"It is fair to infer that in its nuptial attire it makes a grand display. In this plumage its acquisition is very desirable" (Baird's Birds, p. 894). Both the North- and South-American species are representatives rather of *P. griseigena* than of *P. cristatus*. My specimen from Vancouver Island agrees in measurements with Baird's Puget Sound specimen. The cheeks, throat, and ear-coverts are silvery white, the forehead and occiput are glossy green-black, forming an elongated massive crest, behind which the white of the throat extends in a narrow line, forming a narrow collar only interrupted in the centre of the back of the neck. The line of the white throat is sharply defined, and the front and sides of the neck are a rich chestnut, becoming gradually paler as it blends with the silvery white breast and abdomen. The nuptial dress of *P. occidentalis*, it will be seen from this description, differs from that of its southern congener, *P. major*, which has the throat dark ashy grey, becoming almost black as it approaches the chestnut of the neck; while *P. griseigena* has the throat light ashy grey bordered with white. The crest or ruff of the northern bird is also decidedly larger and thicker than that of either of its congeners.

* [We would suggest a reference to 'The Water-Birds of North America,' by Messrs. Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway, vol. ii. p. 422 (Boston, 1884).—Edd.]